

Testimony of Dan Barnhart before the Energy and Technology Committee  
On proposed *House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind  
Projects Until the Adoption of Regulations*  
Thursday, February 3, 2011

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Dan Barnhart and I am submitting this testimony in opposition to proposed House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind Projects Until the Adoption of Regulations.

I am a small business owner and licensed general contractor in the state of Connecticut.

In my lifetime, I have witnessed our state go from one of our nations most vibrant and prosperous economies to one of, if not the worst economy. Connecticut used to be full of creative people that did things and made things. We sent things to every corner of the globe. Now the government seems to be inhibiting progress and growth at every turn. With so many industries leaving our state, we should welcome an industry that wants to bring a 25-30 million dollar project to our area. Especially one that will provide a viable renewable energy source.

Our current dependence on foreign oil is a threat to our national security and it actually forces us to commit the lives of our youth to dangerous areas of the world to secure that oil supply. Also, the environmental impact of the continued burning of fossil fuels at the current rate is unimaginable. Wind power is one of the solutions and Connecticut could be at the forefront of this technology in New England. As you know, by 2010 the state's "renewable portfolio standards" requirements will increase to 27% - How are we going to achieve that goal? The proposed projects in Colebrook and Prospect are a great step in the right direction. They will produce 100% clean, green, renewable electricity with zero emissions and no water consumption. The Colebrook project alone will produce more than twice the annual residential electric needs of the town and generate approximately \$430,000.00 in greatly needed tax revenue for the town.

In addition, let's not forget the great opportunity this could provide for schools throughout our state to help inspire our children in the areas of math and science. In partnership with these industries, they would be able to explore "green" energy technology first hand, right in their own backyard and get excited about a sustainable future!

Washington claims to agree that we need alternative energy sources. We can't do that with more government regulation. I urge you to drop this bill and get out of the way of the technology we need. Thank you.

Daniel Barnhart  
Barnhart & Barnhart General Contracting  
6 Allen Place  
Collinsville, CT 06019  
860-693-1231